

them may be ascribed the credit of introducing the modern period of medical chemistry. Of the physiology and pathology of the eighteenth century only the knowledge which experience gained, and scientific observation disclosed, has remained in the possession of later times. Not one of the numerous systems of schools based on animism now exercises the slightest weight in modern medicine. The material having been collected, however, the few well-cut stones of experience and observation remain for use when an architect arises who can find a place for each in a symmetrical structure.

The belief in vital force has now almost entirely disappeared. We know now that the same chemical laws govern the animate and inanimate worlds, and that definite compounds formed in plants and animals can be prepared artificially, as soon as their chemical constitution has been worked out. The conditions under which the constituents of the body are produced we can only conjecture, but that they obey laws different from those which rule the inanimate world is a view which is no longer tenable.

After this rather long historical sketch of the progress of chemistry and medicine, and the objections made to the theory of animism, it is but natural that you should expect me to maintain the thesis that the chemistry and physics of to-day are able to suggest a theoretical foundation for the art of medicine—to indicate a sort of mental *résumé* for all departments of the healing art. Such a brief description, or formulæ resuming all medicine chemistry has not found and may never find; but of this you may be sure, that its method of seeking for one is the sole possible method, and that the truth reached by this method is that which will most permanently satisfy the human judgment. You would misunderstand me if you imagined that I think it even possible that the psychical and biological enigmas underlying physiology and pathology can be elucidated in the chemical laboratory. That this can ever be done we have at present no evidence whatever. The gateway to the acquisition of a theory of medicine that will harmonize our past with our possible future knowledge is the experimental method of investigation—a method which is employed by chemistry, which was introduced into medicine, taught and especially illustrated by chemistry, and for the